2000-2001 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Results
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ABOUT THE SAT

The SAT is a national examination, offered through the College Board, designed to assess a student’s chances of success at the college level. Nationwide, 1,276,320 students in the 2001 graduating class took the SAT I prior to graduation - a 1.3% increase from 2000. In Wake County, the number of seniors taking the SAT I rose to 4,042 in 2000-2001 from 3,853 in 1999-00, a 4.9% increase.

There are two types of SAT exams: SAT I and SAT II. The SAT I is a reasoning assessment of students’ verbal and mathematical skills. The SAT II tests students in specific subject areas. This bulletin summarizes national, state, and county SAT I data.

In April 1995, the College Board recentered the score scales for students taking the SAT to reflect the contemporary test-taking population. Recentering allows for easier interpretation of scores and simple comparisons between students’ verbal and mathematical abilities.

To permit comparisons with previous years, the College Board has provided conversions of old scores to the new scale. Conversions and new scales are used throughout this bulletin.

DISTRICTWIDE RESULTS

The average SAT score for Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) seniors in 2000-2001 was 1054, a seven point drop from the score of 1061 achieved in 1999-00. Despite the drop, the 1054 average was fifth highest in the state. Chapel Hill-Carrboro led with 1185.

The average score for WCPSS students fell by 7 points after six consecutive years of rising scores. Across North Carolina the average score rose four points while the national average rose one point. As shown in Figure 1, the WCPSS average score remains substantially higher than the North Carolina and United States averages.

Participation of the 2001 WCPSS senior class did not change from the previous year, remaining at 79% of graduating seniors, far above both the state and national participation rates. US participation rose one point to 45%, and North Carolina participation rose one point to 65%.
The participation rate in WCPSS was calculated by dividing the number of senior students who took the SAT by the size of the 2001 graduating class. Participation rates were near the 75% mark for 10 years, and rose to 79% for the past two years. Participation rates reported by the College Board are based upon estimates of enrollment compiled through national surveys. While the College Board rates are probably accurate at the state and national level, they are not accurate at the district and individual school level. Participation rates for WCPSS in this report have been calculated from district records.

The average WCPSS senior taking the test scored 20 points higher on the math test and 14 points higher on the verbal test than the average senior across the country. WCPSS average math scores in 2001 were 36 points higher than they were in 1990 while average verbal scores in 2001 were 19 points higher than in 1990. (See Figure 2)

As shown in Figure 2, the WCPSS total score increase of 55 points since 1990 greatly exceeds both the national increase of 19 points and the North Carolina increase of 44 points.

**Figure 2: WCPSS, NC, and USA Scores Over Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>WCPSS</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Verbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1059</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1042</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1039</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>1031</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1007</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last year, WCPSS had the second highest score of districts across the state. This year WCPSS ranked fifth. Chapel Hill-Carrrboro continues to lead NC districts with a score of 1185 in 2001.

**Figure 3: Top NC District Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buncombe County</td>
<td>1060</td>
<td>1059</td>
<td>1056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapel Hill</td>
<td>1185</td>
<td>1175</td>
<td>1059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>1070</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>1024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>1057</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>1055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCPSS</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>1059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The large urban districts in North Carolina showed mixed results in 2001. Scores for seniors in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools rose, but scores in the other four urban districts fell.

**Figure 4: Comparison of Wake to Similar Large North Carolina Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEA</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Verbal</th>
<th>Part. Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Verbal</th>
<th>Part. Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1020</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1019</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake County</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>79.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>71.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>73.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston-Salem/Forsyth</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>68.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The score for the average WCPSS student compared well to students in other similar large school districts in other states as illustrated in Figure 5. While WCPSS exceeded several districts, the average score was lower than the average score in Fairfax County, Virginia.

**Figure 5: Comparison of Wake to Similar Large Urban/Suburban Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2000-2001 SAT Scores</th>
<th>Verbal</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Part. Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wake County, NC</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>78.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb County, GA</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwinnett County, GA</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>1027</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax County, VA</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>1093</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures 6-8 show that significant gaps continue to exist between the average scores of males and females and Black and White students. As shown in Figure 6, the gap between Black and White students has changed little during the past five years. While there is almost no difference between male and female scores on the Verbal test, scores on the mathematics test show a persistent pattern of average scores for males exceeding average scores for females.
Figure 6: Disaggregated WCPSS SAT Math and Verbal Scores Over Time

Figure 7: 2000-2001 Disaggregated SAT Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEA</th>
<th>BLACK</th>
<th>WHITE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Tot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake County</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Figure 8: WCPSS Disaggregated Results by School For 2000-2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>V M T</td>
<td>V M T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apex</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td>536 558 1094</td>
<td>448 442 890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>520 556 1076</td>
<td>441 471 912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broughton</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>526 545 1071</td>
<td>422 416 838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cary</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>525 539 1064</td>
<td>490 491 981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Wake</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>470 485 955</td>
<td>411 418 829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enloe</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>573 575 1148</td>
<td>453 445 898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuquay</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>474 499 973</td>
<td>394 396 790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garner</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>476 494 970</td>
<td>429 438 867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leesville</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>525 541 1066</td>
<td>430 439 869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millbrook</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
<td>495 506 1001</td>
<td>448 429 877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanderson</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>522 535 1057</td>
<td>441 422 863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Raleigh</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>523 523 1046</td>
<td>456 444 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
<td>508 517 1025</td>
<td>449 434 883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>506 514 1020</td>
<td>433 426 859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>493 499 992</td>
<td>418 417 835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake County</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>520 534 1054</td>
<td>443 438 881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Race and Gender are self-reported by students who take the SAT. Numbers come from College Board reports.
### Figure 9: Wake County Public School System School-by-School SAT 1997-2000 Scores

|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|         |-----------|----------|         |-----------|----------|----------|
|              | Part. Rate| Verbal   | Math     | Total    | Part. Rate| Verbal   | Math     | Total    | Part. Rate| Verbal   | Math     | Total    | Part. Rate| Verbal   | Math     | Total    |
| USA          | 45%       | 506      | 514      | 1020     | 44%       | 505      | 514      | 1019     | 43%       | 505      | 511      | 1016     | 43%       | 505      | 512      | 1017     |
| NC           | 65%       | 493      | 499      | 992      | 64%       | 492      | 496      | 988      | 61%       | 493      | 493      | 986      | 62%       | 490      | 492      | 982      |
| Wake County  | 78.6%     | 520      | 534      | 1054     | 79.2%     | 522      | 539      | 1061     | 76.3%     | 522      | 537      | 1059     | 75.6%     | 521      | 531      | 1052     |
| Apex         | 83.7%     | 536      | 558      | 1094     | 85.9%     | 526      | 551      | 1077     | 83.1%     | 530      | 552      | 1082     | 78.6%     | 541      | 558      | 1099     |
| Athens       | 80.7%     | 520      | 556      | 1076     | 82.8%     | 523      | 550      | 1073     | 79.0%     | 515      | 535      | 1050     | 76.5%     | 513      | 537      | 1050     |
| Broughton    | 88.8%     | 526      | 545      | 1071     | 78.6%     | 526      | 551      | 1077     | 81.7%     | 528      | 549      | 1077     | 82.7%     | 534      | 550      | 1084     |
| Cary         | 80.3%     | 525      | 539      | 1064     | 79.4%     | 525      | 544      | 1069     | 83.1%     | 524      | 541      | 1065     | 76.2%     | 522      | 528      | 1050     |
| East Wake    | 75.5%     | 470      | 485      | 955      | 68.7%     | 470      | 487      | 957      | 67.0%     | 476      | 486      | 962      | 67.9%     | 470      | 485      | 955      |
| Enloe        | 90.2%     | 573      | 575      | 1148     | 88.1%     | 580      | 577      | 1157     | 86.9%     | 581      | 585      | 1166     | 86.7%     | 562      | 565      | 1127     |
| Fuquay       | 67.8%     | 474      | 499      | 973      | 71.1%     | 497      | 505      | 1002     | 62.0%     | 494      | 496      | 990      | 54.4%     | 489      | 489      | 978      |
| Garner       | 49.7%     | 476      | 494      | 970      | 64.5%     | 488      | 500      | 988      | 58.1%     | 482      | 501      | 983      | 57.4%     | 492      | 506      | 998      |
| Leesville    | 87.3%     | 525      | 541      | 1066     | 86.9%     | 539      | 557      | 1096     | 83.6%     | 536      | 549      | 1085     | 85.7%     | 538      | 545      | 1083     |
| Millbrook    | 78.4%     | 495      | 506      | 1001     | 76.2%     | 515      | 530      | 1045     | 74.7%     | 513      | 519      | 1032     | 73.1%     | 502      | 509      | 1011     |
| Sanderson    | 82.2%     | 522      | 535      | 1057     | 82.5%     | 518      | 552      | 1070     | 80.8%     | 514      | 554      | 1068     | 78.6%     | 514      | 525      | 1039     |
| SE Raleigh   | 83.8%     | 523      | 523      | 1046     | 73.8%     | 500      | 509      | 1009     | 66.4%     | 492      | 505      | 997      | NA        | NA       | NA       | NA       |
| Wake Forest  | 77.8%     | 508      | 517      | 1025     | 76.4%     | 500      | 517      | 1017     | 79.5%     | 511      | 517      | 1028     | 72.7%     | 517      | 522      | 1039     |

The participation rate is the percentage of graduating seniors who took the SAT I.